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C O N F I D E N T I A L VATICAN 004030

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR: EUR/WE (SDEAN); AF/S (DELISA, KUSNITZ)

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 128/01

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/11

TAGS: PREL PGOV AN VT

SUBJECT: ANGOLA PEACE: SANT'EGIDIO FORWARDS UNITA PROPOSAL

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE JOSEPH MERANTE, REASONS E.O. 12958  
(B), (D).

¶1. (U) THIS CABLE CONTAINS A GUIDANCE REQUEST -- PLEASE  
SEE PARA FOUR.

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¶2. (C) SANT'EGIDIO COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR AND  
SOMETIME AFRICAN-CONFLICT-MEDIATOR DON MATTEO ZUPPI ASKED  
CHARGE AND A/DCM TO COFFEE 7/30 TO SEEK USG VIEWS AND  
SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL TO REINVIGORATE PROCESS FOR ANGOLA  
PEACE. DON MATTEO SAID HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AN  
UNNAMED "GOOD CONTACT" IN UNITA WHO HAD SHARED A PROPOSAL  
FOR STOPPING HOSTILITIES AND INITIATING MEDIATION. DON  
MATTEO SAID THE UNITA OFFICIAL PROPOSED THAT SANT'EGIDIO  
HOST A SMALL "SECRET" MEETING OF UNITA AND GOA  
REPRESENTATIVES AT SANT'EGIDIO HEADQUARTERS IN ROME. THE  
PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH THE FRAMEWORK  
FOR A CEASEFIRE, AFTER WHICH UNITA WOULD BE WILLING TO  
ENTER INTO A BROADER MEDIATION FOR DISARMAMENT AND  
RECONCILIATION. DON MATTEO ASKED FOR USG VIEWS, BUT  
PARTICULARLY WANTED THE USG TO GAIN GOA BLESSING FOR THIS  
INITIAL MEETING IN ROME. HE SAID THAT, WITH PRESIDENT DOS  
SANTOS' AGREEMENT, THE FIRST MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE AS  
EARLY AS NEXT WEEK.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: AS LONG-TIME AFRICA WATCHERS KNOW,  
SANT'EGIDIO HAS A PROVEN BUT FADING TRACK RECORD OF  
SUCCESSFUL CONFLICT MEDIATION IN AFRICA, HAVING FACILITATED  
THE END TO MOZAMBIQUE'S CIVIL WAR IN 1990-92. EVER SINCE,  
SANT'EGIDIO HAS SOUGHT, BUT FAILED, TO DUPLICATE THAT  
SUCCESS BY HELPING RESOLVE SOME OTHER INTER-COMMUNAL  
CONFLICT. DON MATTEO HIMSELF REMAINS VERY ACTIVE IN  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS, MOST RECENTLY HAVING BEEN PROMOTED BY US  
SPECIAL ENVOY WOLPE FOR A ROLE IN DRC CONFLICT MEDIATION.  
POST HAS FOUND SANT'EGIDIO TO BE A USEFUL INTERLOCUTOR --  
THEY FREQUENTLY TRAVEL TO PLACES AND TALK WITH PEOPLE THAT  
THE USG HAS LIMITED ABILITY TO REACH.

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¶4. (C) GUIDANCE REQUEST: POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY  
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE IN RESPONDING TO  
DON MATTEO. WE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD GET BACK TO HIM  
ASAP.  
MERANTE

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